



Contact: Karen Fishman (312) 551-1415, x22
karenfishman@baroque.org

OR

Jennifer Glagov (312) 551-1415, x23
jenglagov@baroque.org

**MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ANNOUNCES EXPANDED
45th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SEASON**

Highlights include the Monteverdi 1610 Vespers

CHICAGO, MARCH 11—Music of the Baroque today announced plans for the upcoming 2015-16 concert season. The season, the group's 45th, opens October 18 with music by J. S. Bach and runs through May 23. An expanded calendar of 19 performances of eight concert programs will be presented in 2015-16. Six of the eight programs will be offered at both the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in downtown Chicago and the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Two programs—the ensemble's traditional holiday brass and choral concerts and the Monteverdi Vespers—will take place at church venues in Chicago, River Forest, and Northbrook.

“The coming season features great works from the repertoire on which Music of the Baroque has built its reputation for the past four and one-half decades,” said Stanley Ferguson, chairman of the ensemble's board of directors. “The enthusiasm and loyal support of classical music lovers in Chicago have made it possible for us to reach this milestone in our performing history, and we are delighted to be able to expand our offerings once again next season. As we celebrate 45 seasons of music-making, we look forward to continuing to bring Chicago audiences superb performances from the rich period we explore.”

Season opens with an all-Bach program

Praised throughout its history for its performances of the choral music of Johann Sebastian Bach, Music of the Baroque begins its 45th anniversary season with three of the composer's masterpieces in the cantata genre—No. 119, "Preise, Jerusalem," No. 140, "Wachet auf," and No. 82, "Ich habe genug." Principal Guest Conductor Nicholas Kraemer leads the orchestra, chorus, and soloists in performances Sunday evening, October 18, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, October 19, at the Harris Theater. Roderick Williams, hailed by *Opera* magazine as "Britain's best baritone," is the featured soloist in the deeply moving "Ich habe genug," which the ensemble first presented in its debut concert season.

The following month, Music Director Jane Glover makes her first of four appearances next season leading the orchestra, chorus, and soloists in George Frideric Handel's stirring oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus*. Performances take place just before next year's Chanukah celebration, on Sunday afternoon, November 29, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, November 30, at the Harris Theater.

Four performances of Music of the Baroque's holiday brass and choral concerts follow in mid-December. Chorus Director William Jon Gray leads the Music of the Baroque Chorus and eight-part brass ensemble in music drawn largely from the 16th and 17th centuries on Thursday evening, December 17, at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest; Friday evening, December 18, at St. Michael's Church in Chicago; and at Divine Word Chapel in Northbrook on Saturday afternoon, December 19, and Sunday afternoon, December 20.

Orchestral programs begin the New Year

Music of the Baroque's 45th anniversary concert season continues with Jane Glover's return to the podium for two orchestral programs. In January, Glover leads an evening dubbed "Musical Patrons" featuring works written "on demand" by the composers she calls the "four pillars of Music of the Baroque's repertoire." Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1, Mozart's Symphony No. 35 (*Haffner*), Haydn's *Farewell* Symphony, and the F Major Suite from Handel's *Water Music* will all be heard. Performances are Sunday evening, January 24, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, January 25, at the Harris Theater.

Jane Glover's second orchestral program with Music of the Baroque next season, titled "Dawn to Dusk," traverses a musical day of works by Haydn and Mozart. A trilogy of early Haydn symphonies written in concerto grosso style—No. 6 (*Le Matin*), No. 7 (*Le Midi*), and No. 8 (*Le Soir*) will be heard in an evening that also includes Mozart's *Serenata Notturna*. Performances take place Sunday evening, February 28, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, February 29, at the Harris Theater.

Monteverdi Vespers will showcase the acclaimed Music of the Baroque chorus

Jane Glover returns in April to lead the chorus, orchestra, and a period instrument ensemble in three performances of the great 1610 *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin* by Claudio Monteverdi. Standing at the dawn of the Baroque era and synthesizing Renaissance polyphony and a dramatic new style of musical composition, the *Vespers* is one of the most important pieces of religious music ever written.

While the *Vespers* has figured prominently in Music of the Baroque's history (the ensemble presented the work's professional Chicago premiere in 1976 and performed it several times thereafter), these will be Music of the Baroque's first performances in nearly two decades, and the first-ever in Chicago under Jane Glover's baton. Noting that the project is being underwritten by the Negaunee Foundation, Music of the Baroque executive director Karen Fishman said, "We are thrilled to be returning to this extraordinary work during our 45th anniversary season, and we are deeply grateful to our friends at the Negaunee Foundation for making these concerts possible." Performances of the Monteverdi *Vespers* are Friday evening, April 1, at St. Michael's Church in Chicago, and Saturday evening, April 2, and Sunday afternoon, April 3, at Divine Word Chapel in Northbrook.

Later in April, early music specialist and rising conductor Paul Agnew leads the Music of the Baroque chorus in an intimate program called "Hear My Prayer" exploring sacred music composed for the Chapel Royal by Henry Purcell. Featuring both verse and accompanied anthems, the evening will also include instrumental music by the composer known as "the English Orpheus." Performances are Sunday evening, April 24, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, April 25, at the Harris Theater.

Music of the Baroque's 45th anniversary concert season concludes with Nicholas Kraemer on the podium for an orchestral program entitled "A Musical Feast." This joyous

evening of music-making includes Telemann's first *Tafelmusik* suite and the Fifth Brandenburg Concerto, as well as works by Handel and Vivaldi. Performances are Sunday evening, May 22, at the North Shore Center, and Monday evening, May 23, at the Harris Theater.

Subscriptions now on sale

Subscriptions for the 2015-16 concert season are on sale now at the Music of the Baroque box office, 312-551-1414. Single tickets for all concerts will go on sale August 1.

A complete list of 2015-16 season repertoire, performance dates and times, and venues is attached. Programs, dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

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MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE 45TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SEASON
COMPLETE 2015-16 PROGRAM LISTING

PROGRAM # 1

Kraemer Conducts Bach—Awake!

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra
Nicholas Kraemer, conductor
William Jon Gray, chorus director
Roderick Williams, bass-baritone
Additional soloists to be announced

Sunday, October 18, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, October 19, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

J. S. BACH

“Preise, Jerusalem, Den Herrn,” BWV 119

“Ich habe genug,” BWV 82

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme,” BWV 140

PROGRAM # 2

Heroic Handel—Judas Maccabaeus

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra
Jane Glover, conductor
William Jon Gray, chorus director
Soloists to be announced

Sunday, November 29, 3:00 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, November 30, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

HANDEL

Judas Maccabaeus

PROGRAM # 3

Holiday Brass and Choral Concerts

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Brass Ensemble

William Jon Gray, conductor

Repertoire and soloists to be announced

Thursday, December 17, 8:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest

Friday, December 18, 8:00 pm

St. Michael's Church, Chicago

Saturday, December 19, 3:00 pm

Divine Word Chapel, Northbrook

Sunday, December 20, 3:00 pm

Divine Word Chapel, Northbrook

PROGRAM # 4

Musical Patrons

Music of the Baroque Orchestra

Jane Glover, conductor

Sunday, January 24, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, January 25, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

W. A. MOZART

HANDEL

J. S. BACH

F. J. HAYDN

Symphony No. 35 in D Major, K. 385 (*Haffner*)

Water Music Suite No. 1 in F Major

Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major, BWV 1046

Symphony No. 45 in F-sharp Major (*Farewell*)

PROGRAM # 5

Dawn to Dusk—
Glover Conducts Haydn & Mozart

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Jane Glover, conductor

Sunday, February 28, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, February 29, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

F. J. HAYDN

Symphony No. 6 in D Major (*Le Matin*)

Symphony No. 7 in C Major (*Le Midi*)

Symphony No. 8 in G Major (*Le Soir*)

W. A. MOZART

Serenade in D Major, K. 239 (*Serenata Notturna*)

PROGRAM # 6

The Monteverdi Vespers

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Instruments
Jane Glover, conductor
William Jon Gray, chorus director
Soloists to be announced

Friday, April 1, 7:30 pm

St. Michael's Church, Chicago

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm

Divine Word Chapel, Northbrook

Sunday, April 3, 3:00 pm

Divine Word Chapel, Northbrook

MONTEVERDI

Vespers of the Blessed Virgin (1610)

PROGRAM # 7

Hear My Prayer—Great Purcell Anthems

Music of the Baroque Chorus and Instruments
Paul Agnew, conductor

Sunday, April 24, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, April 25, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

PURCELL

Anthems and sonatas, including “Rejoice in the Lord
always,” “O Sing unto the Lord a new song, “Blow up the
trumpet in Zion,” and “My heart is inditing of a great
pleasure”

PROGRAM # 8

A Musical Feast

Music of the Baroque Orchestra
Nicholas Kraemer, conductor

Sunday, May 22, 7:30 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Monday, May 23, 7:30 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago

TELEMANN

Suite No. 1 from *Tafelmusik*

VIVALDI

Concerto in F Major for 2 horns

HANDEL

Suite from *Rodrigo*

J. S. BACH

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major, BWV 1050